

THE
SOUTH
CAROLINA

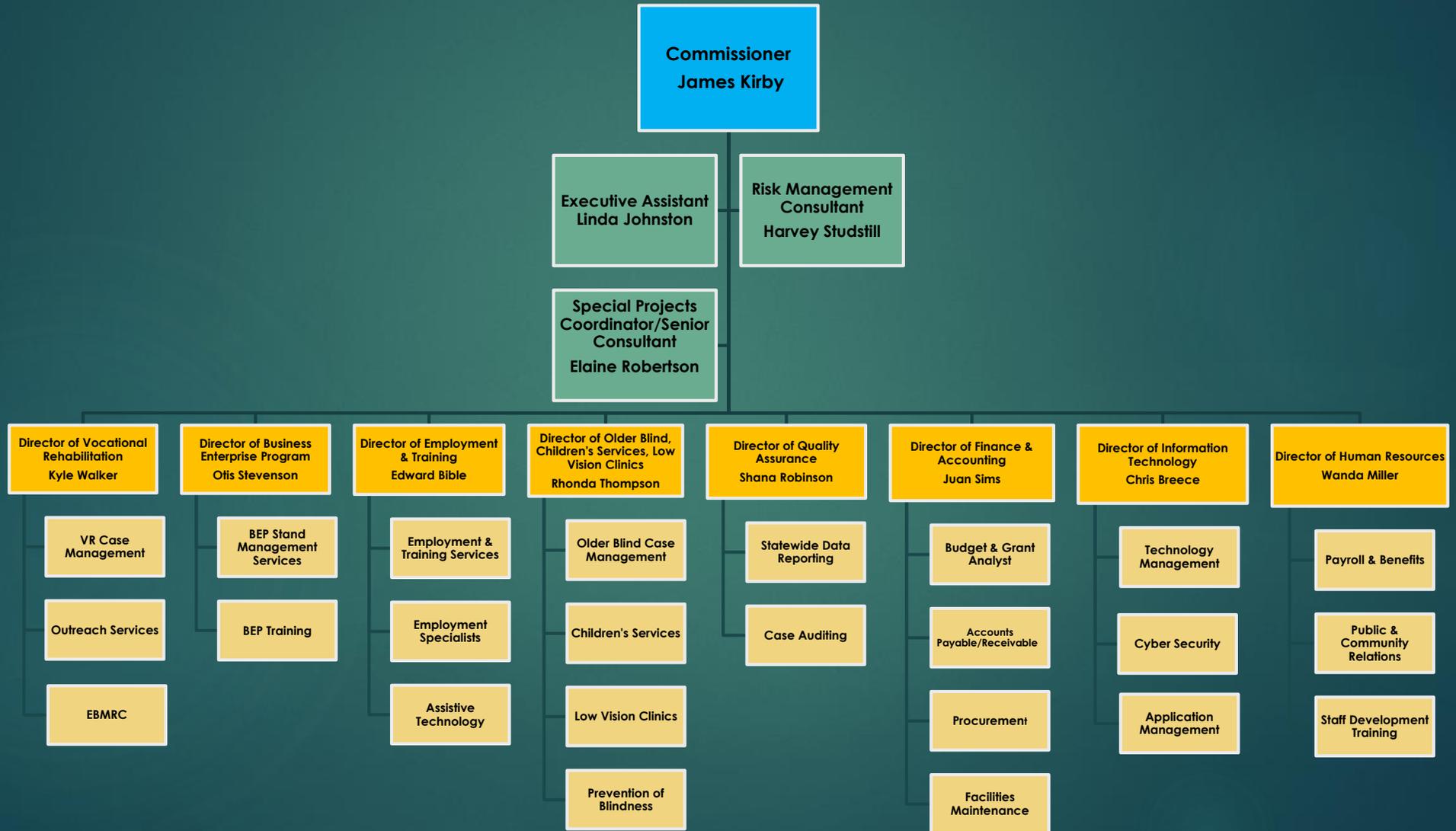


Commission
for the **Blind**



“Our mission is to provide quality individualized vocational rehabilitation services, independent living services and prevention-of-blindness services to blind and visually impaired consumers, leading to competitive employment and social and economic independence.”

Agency 2016 Organizational Chart



Accountability Report Highlights

- ▶ A growing population—A study from Cornell University in 2013 estimates that there are 127,600 South Carolina residents with severe visual impairments—a number expected to grow as the population ages.
- ▶ Increased focus on youth under WIOA regulations has brought a 62% increase in referrals over the past year for consumers aged 5 to 20.
- ▶ Reinstatement of Prevention of Blindness program has provided surgical restoration, eye exams, eyeglasses, and education for prevention of blindness across the state.
- ▶ SCCB completed the intensive Legislative Oversight Committee Study with favorable results and recommendations.

Challenges

- ▶ **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)—Federal regulations have changed how Vocational Rehabilitation Services are provided. The focus is now on quality and not quantity, as well as partnerships with state and community organizations to expand services.**
- ▶ **SCCB has undergone a Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment to assist us in restructuring services under WIOA and to better serve our consumers.**
- ▶ **We are in the process of migrating our Information Technology Infrastructure to the Department of Technology to better utilize our I.T. resources, both financial and human, and to comply with all SC Technology security policies.**

Prioritized Budget Requests

- ▶ Older Blind Counselor—The population of SC continues to age and with it comes an increase in visual conditions that endanger the ability of this population to remain in their homes. However the desire to remain independent is strong and this program received over 800 referrals in the past year. We currently have a waiting list of over 200.
- ▶ Employment Consultant—WIOA has brought opportunity for restructure and quality employment services. It also brings greater responsibility to serve employers and work to create career training opportunities. An additional Consultant would allow us to reach a greater number of businesses and put more visually impaired citizens on the path to self-sufficiency through employment.

Prioritized Budget Requests

- ▶ Software Customization—At this time our case management software can be very time consuming. Customizing the program will eliminate the need to enter the same information multiple times, will increase automation for authorizing services, will increase accuracy in reports, and with the above will increase productivity for staff which allows for better consumer services.
- ▶ Mobile Unit—South Carolina has many rural areas that are difficult for our small agency to serve. A customized, outfitted mobile unit will allow us to reach those in need in the more rural areas. It will allow an SCCB team to reach out to the underserved areas of the state.

Prioritized Budget Requests

- ▶ Federal Training Grant Replacement—The RSA discontinued the Federal Training Grant. However under WIOA the agency is responsible for providing ongoing training to maintain well qualified staff. The agency also must provide training on the new regulations, procedures, best practices, and assist in maintaining professional credentials.
- ▶ Federal Authorization Increase—SCCB is requesting additional federal spending authority to be able to fully utilize the federal funds available to our agency.
- ▶ Pay Plan Allocation—Spread the agency pay plan increase as required.
- ▶ SCRS and PORS .5% Rate Increase Allocation—Base adjustment Allocation of statewide employee benefits
- ▶ Health and Dental Insurance Allocation—Base adjustment Allocation of statewide employee benefits.

3 Year Other Funds Authorization and Spending

FY16		FY15		FY14	
Authorization	Expenditures	Authorization	Expenditures	Authorization	Expenditures
\$403,000	\$53,560	\$293,000	\$156,681	\$293,000	\$244,077



We would like to thank you for your time and for your consideration of our requests. SCCB is looking forward to many positive changes during the upcoming year and your support is invaluable in assisting us to reach our goals. Our staff is dedicated and passionate about helping South Carolinians with visual impairments to remain as independent as possible and to achieve success in the public workforce.